

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER
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DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
Professor Joshua Lederberg

Area Code 415

321-1200

Mr. H. I. Romnes
Chairman of the Board
American Telephone & Telegraph
193 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I would be grateful to you for information you may have available
on: *(see attached clipping from the W.D.T.)*

Did you submit a technical brief to detail your concerns about the
unrestrained of customer-owned apparatus to the telephone system?
connection

In view of the very wide variation in quality of communication that
I experience in calling long-distance, it occurs to me that the
main problem may be exactly the converse. If you establish speci-
fications for customer connections, there will also be implied speci-
fications for the communication bandwidth over the system, and you
will be subject to verifiable complaints about the lower wings of the
distribution of the service you sell. Naturally, as a publically
regulated utility, ~~and~~ any enhancement of the worst-case service
will only become possible by compensating rates; I also perceive
your horror at the possible evolution of pressures to charge for
the actual service delivered-- i.e., a customer who gets a noisy
line would be charged accordingly less for his call, with a large
fuss and overhead to measure that quality.

Do you have any comment on these concerns; are they included in your
briefs?

Thank you,

Joshua Lederberg
Joshua Lederberg

NOTE: I write a weekly column on "Science and Man" for the Washington
Post and affiliated newspapers. Your information may be helpful
to me in drafting future columns.